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(54) **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR DETECTING
AND REDUCING DISTRACTED DRIVING**

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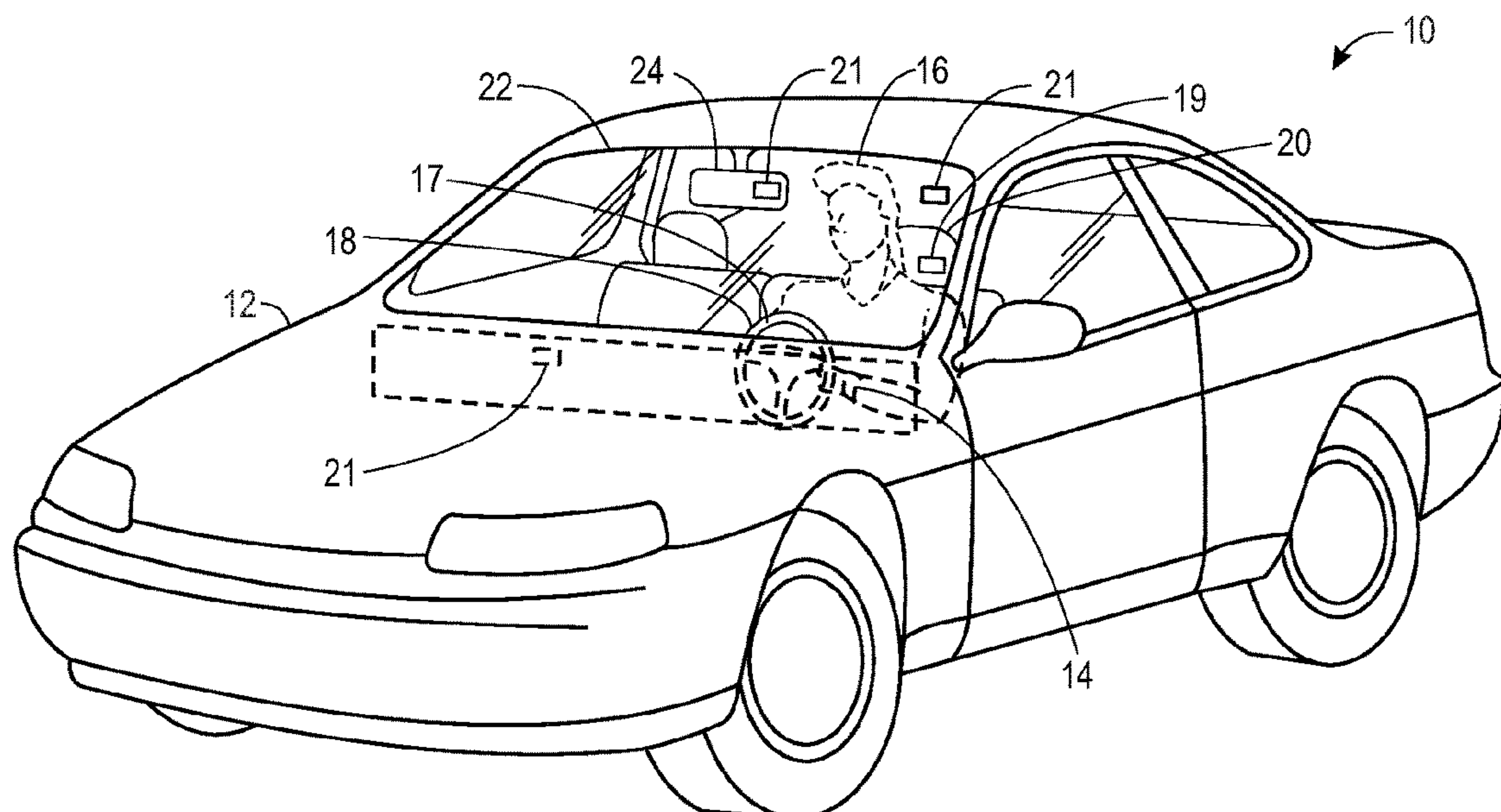
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method includes receiving, with one or more processors, biometric information of a first user. The method also includes determining, with the one or more processors, whether there is an indication that the first user is distracted based on the biometric information. The method further includes receiving, with the one or more processors, vehicle speed information. The method also includes determining, with the one or more processors, whether there is an indication that the first user is driving based on the vehicle speed information. The method further includes in response to determining that the first user is distracted and that the first user is driving, instructing, with the one or more processors, a mobile device associated with the first user to contact a second user or a call center.

20 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



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USPC 340/576, 439, 575, 438, 686.6, 691.6, 340/5.52
See application file for complete search history.

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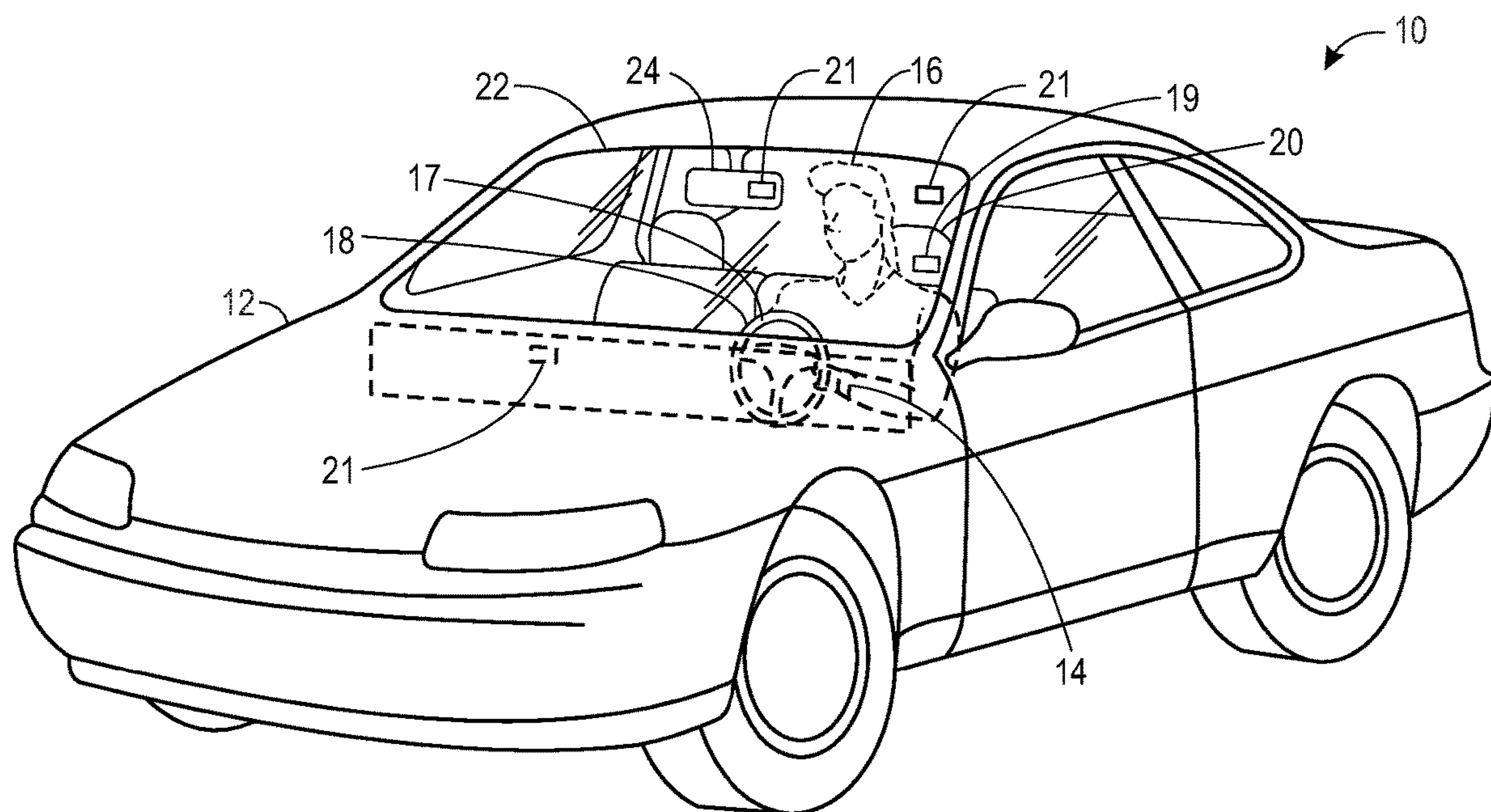


FIG. 1

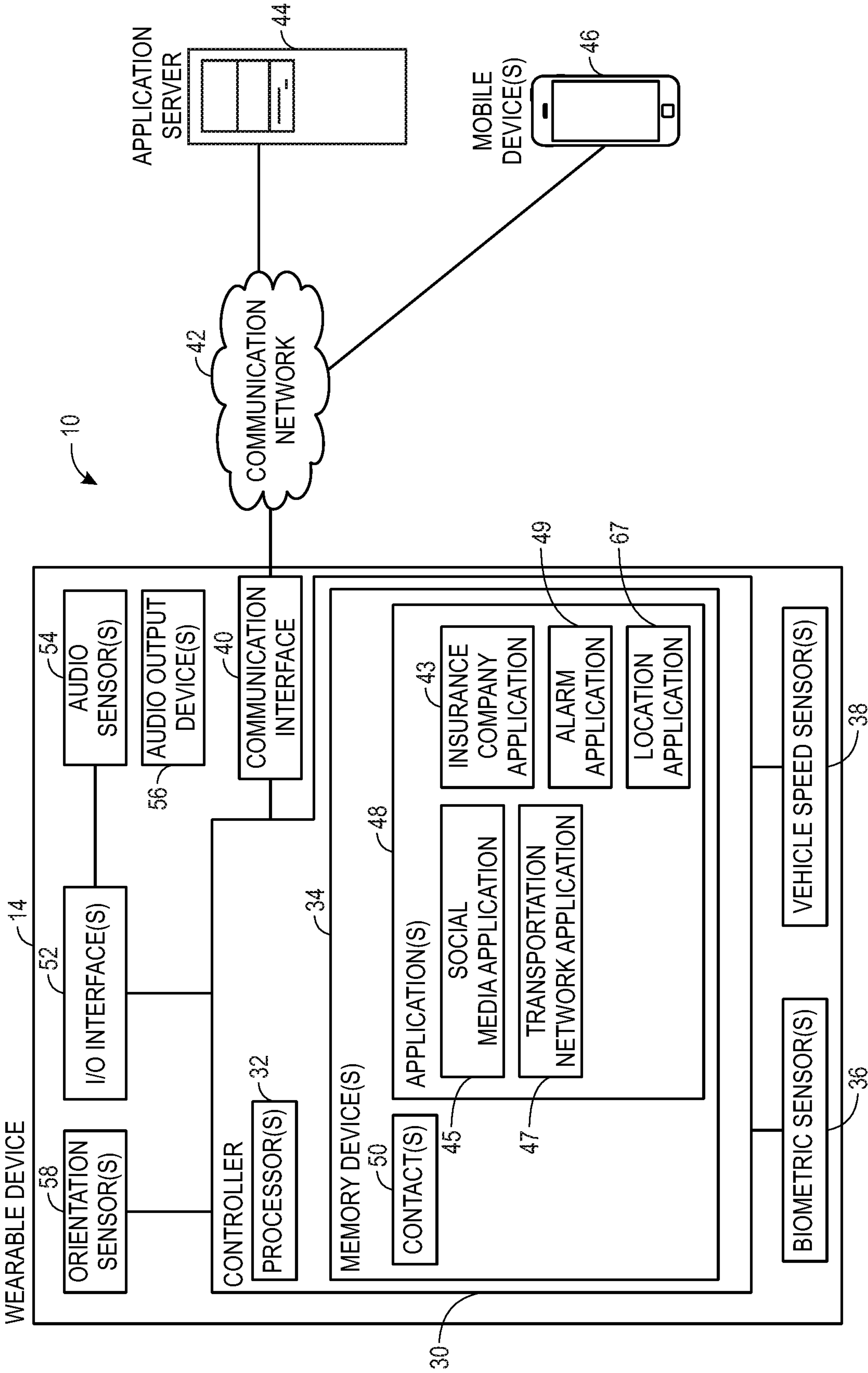


FIG. 2

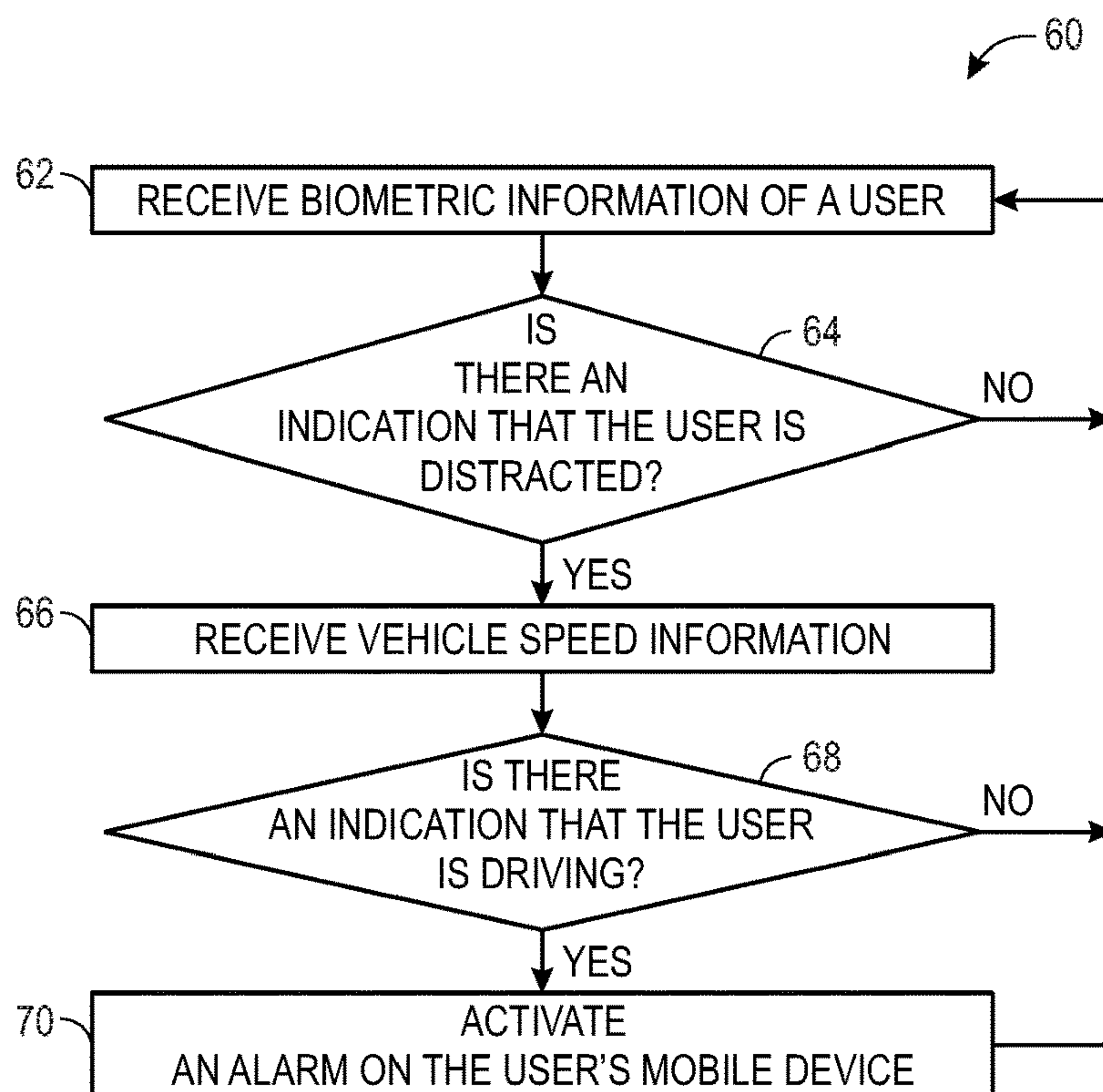


FIG. 3

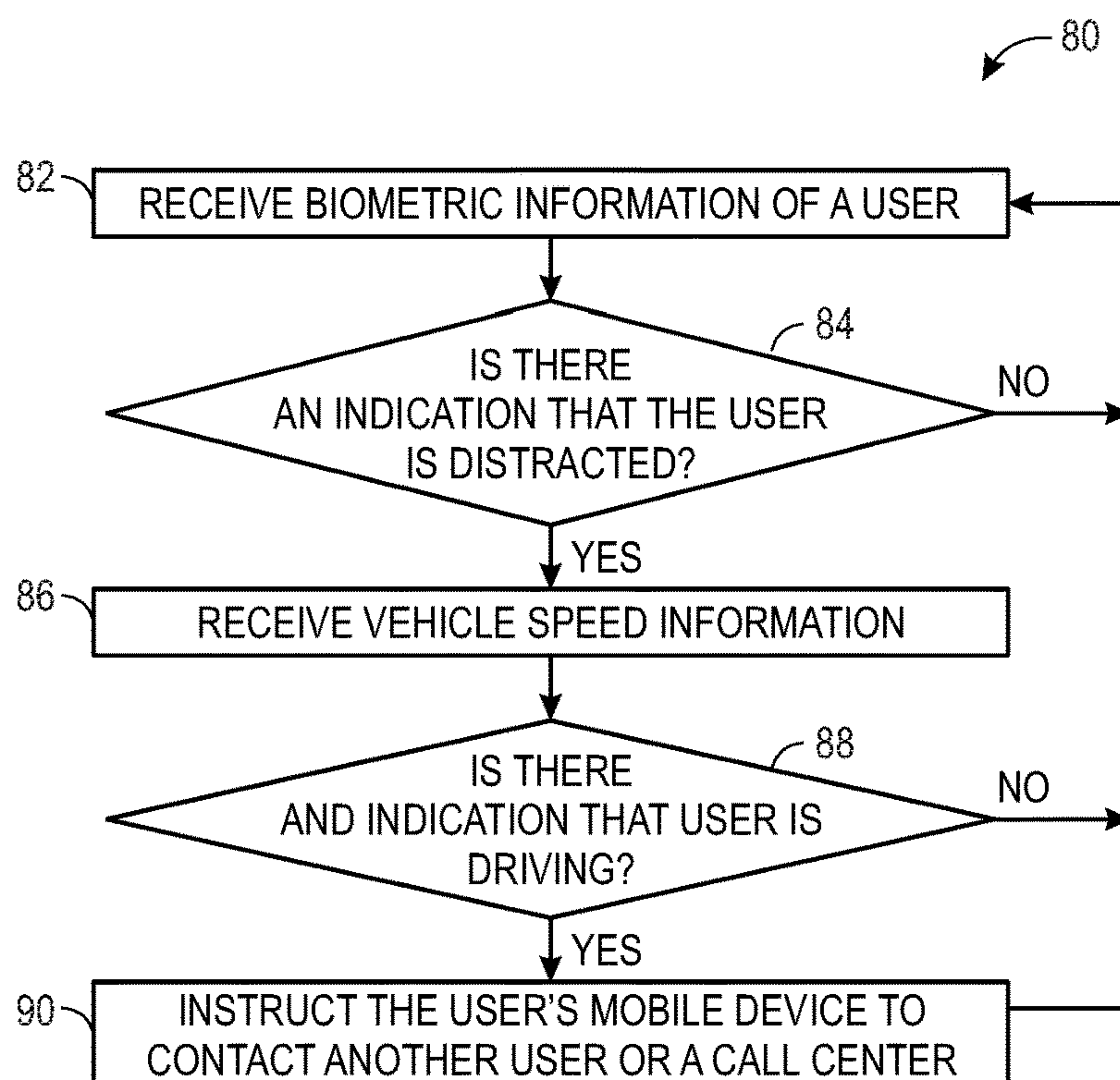


FIG. 4

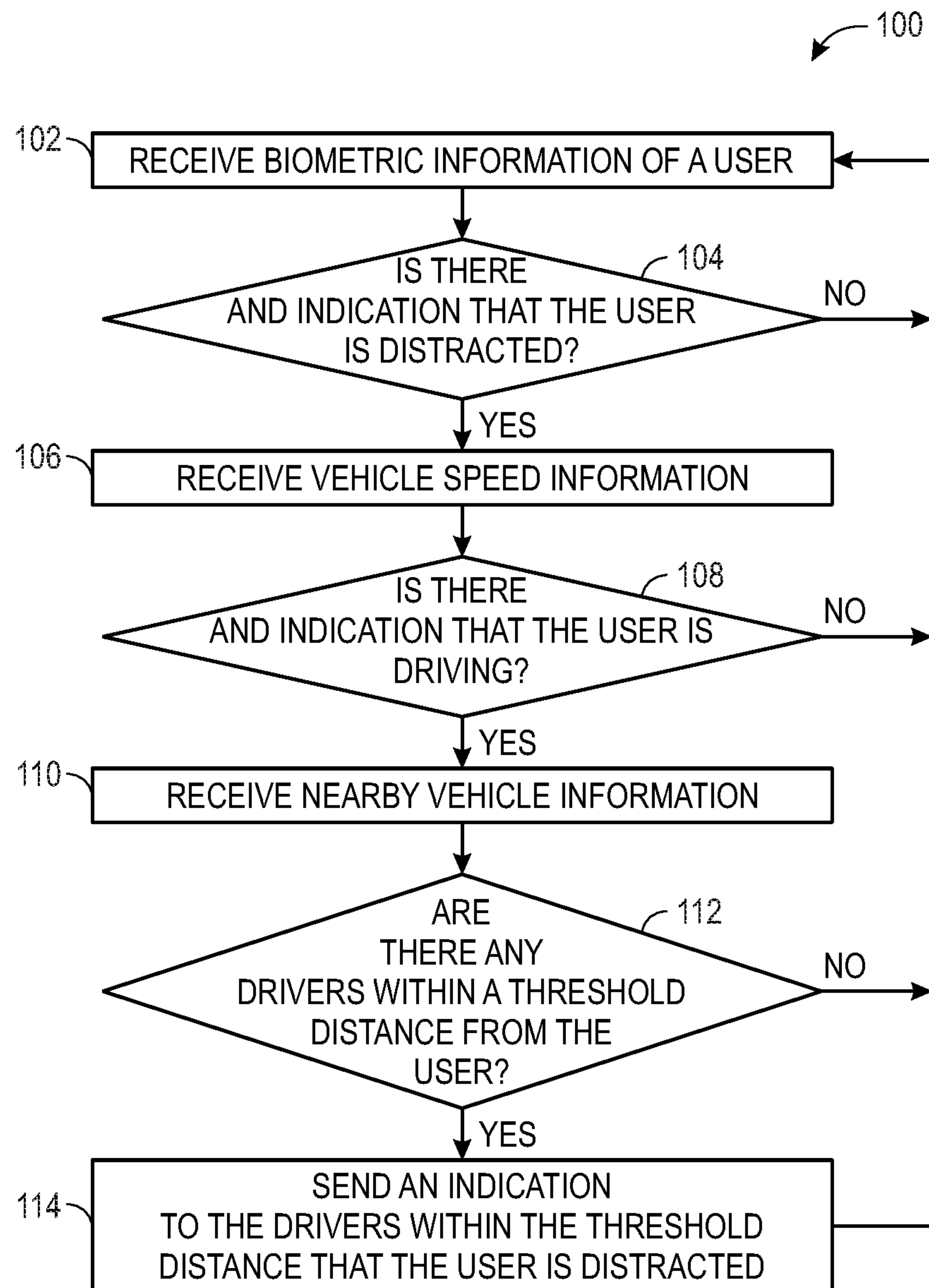


FIG. 5

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR DETECTING AND REDUCING DISTRACTED DRIVING

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/509,125, filed Jul. 11, 2019, entitled “Systems and Methods for Detecting and Reducing Distracted Driving,” which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/007,705, filed Jun. 13, 2018, which issued as U.S. Pat. No. 10,384,602 on Aug. 20, 2019, entitled “Systems and Methods for Detecting and Reducing Distracted Driving,” which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/519,512, filed Jun. 14, 2017, entitled “Systems and Methods for Detecting and Reducing Distracted Driving,” each of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety for all purposes.

BACKGROUND

The present disclosure relates generally to distracted driving, and more particularly to systems and methods for detecting distracted driving and performing actions to reduce distracted driving.

This section is intended to introduce the reader to various aspects of art that may be related to various aspects of the present disclosure, which are described and/or claimed below. This discussion is believed to help provide the reader with background information to facilitate a better understanding of the various aspects of the present disclosure. Accordingly, it is understood that these statements are to be read in this light, and not as admissions of prior art.

A variety of factors may cause distracted driving, such as drowsiness due to lack of sleep, medication, other drugs (e.g., alcohol), and the like. It is now recognized that certain detectable characteristics may be associated with distracted driving, such as decreased oxygen levels and/or pulse, decreased vehicle speed, eye focus away from the road, excessive head movement, and the like. Further, it is now recognized that determining whether a user is distracted based on at least some of these detectable characteristics and performing actions to reduce distraction to the user may reduce instances of distracted driving.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Various aspects of this disclosure may be better understood upon reading the following detailed description and upon reference to the drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a distracted driving detection and reduction system used in a vehicle, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of the distracted driving detection and reduction system of FIG. 1, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 3 is a flowchart illustrating a method for detecting and reducing distracted driving by using an alarm, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 4 is a flowchart illustrating a method for detecting and reducing distracted driving by contacting another user or a call center, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure; and

FIG. 5 is a flowchart illustrating a method for detecting distracted driving and alerting nearby drivers, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

One or more specific embodiments will be described below. In an effort to provide a concise description of these embodiments, not all features of an actual implementation are described in the specification. It should be appreciated that in the development of any such actual implementation, as in any engineering or design project, numerous implementation-specific decisions must be made to achieve the developers' specific goals, such as compliance with system-related and business-related constraints, which may vary from one implementation to another. Moreover, it should be appreciated that such a development effort might be complex and time consuming, but would nevertheless be a routine undertaking of design, fabrication, and manufacture for those of ordinary skill having the benefit of this disclosure.

The present disclosure relates generally to distracted driving, and more particularly to systems and methods for detecting distracted driving and performing actions to reduce distracted driving. In some embodiments, a biometric sensor of an electronic device that detects one or more biometric characteristics (e.g., pulse or oxygen levels) of a user may indicate that the user is distracted. A vehicle speed sensor (e.g., a speedometer, an accelerometer, a location device, or a global positioning system device) of the electronic device or another electronic device (e.g., of the vehicle) may indicate that the user is operating or driving the vehicle. The electronic device may then perform an action to reduce distraction to the user, such as activating an alarm, contacting another user, a call center (e.g., associated with the user's insurance company), and the like. In this manner, distracted driving may be reduced. In additional or alternative embodiments, the electronic device may send an indication to nearby drivers within a threshold distance from the user that the user is distracted. This may alert the nearby drivers to the distracted driver, reducing traffic incidents.

As an introduction, FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a distracted driving detection and reduction system 10 used in a vehicle 12, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. While the vehicle 12 is illustrated as an automobile, it should be understood that the present disclosure applies to any suitable vehicle, such as a truck, motorcycle, commercial vehicle, recreational vehicle, all-terrain vehicle, boat, airplane, snowmobile, and the like. As illustrated, the distracted driving detection and reduction system 10 includes a mobile electronic device, such as a wearable electronic device 14, of a user 16. The mobile electronic device (e.g., the wearable device 14) may be a smart electronic device (e.g., a smartwatch) that may be worn on a body of the user 16. In alternative or additional embodiments, the wearable electronic device 14 may be any suitable electronic device that may detect characteristics associated with distracted driving, such as a smartphone, a computing device, and the like. Moreover, in some embodiments, the distracted driving detection and reduction system 10 may include electronic devices that are coupled to the vehicle 12 that may detect distracted driving characteristics. For example, such electronic devices may include a pulse detection sensor 17 in a steering wheel 18 of the vehicle 12, a biometric or occupancy sensor 19 in a driver seat 20 of the vehicle 12, an eye or head detection sensor 21 (e.g., a camera) in a windshield 22, in a mirror 24, mounted on a dashboard of the vehicle 12, or the like.

With this in mind, FIG. 2 is a block diagram of the distracted driving detection and reduction system 10 of FIG.

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1, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. As mentioned above, the distracted driving detection and reduction system 10 includes the mobile electronic device, which is shown as the wearable device 14, which includes a controller 30. The controller 30 includes one or more processors 32 and one or more memory devices 34. The processor(s) 32 (e.g., microprocessors) may execute software programs and/or instructions to detect distracted driving characteristics of the user 16 and perform one or more actions to reduce distracted driving. Moreover, the processor(s) 32 may include multiple microprocessors, one or more “general-purpose” microprocessors, one or more special-purpose microprocessors, and/or one or more application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), or some combination thereof. For example, the processor(s) 32 may include one or more reduced instruction set computer (RISC) processors. The memory device(s) 34 may store information such as control software, look up tables, configuration data, etc. In some embodiments, the processor(s) 32 and/or the memory device(s) 34 may be external to the controller 30. The memory device(s) 34 may include a tangible, non-transitory, machine-readable-medium, such as a volatile memory (e.g., a random access memory (RAM)) and/or a nonvolatile memory (e.g., a read-only memory (ROM)). The memory device(s) 34 may store a variety of information and may be used for various purposes. For example, the memory device(s) 34 may store machine-readable and/or processor-executable instructions (e.g., firmware or software) for the processor(s) 32 to execute, such as instructions for detecting distracted driving characteristics of the user 16 and perform one or more actions to reduce distracted driving. The memory device(s) 34 may include one or more storage devices (e.g., nonvolatile storage devices) that may include read-only memory (ROM), flash memory, a hard drive, or any other suitable optical, magnetic, or solid-state storage medium, or a combination thereof. As previously noted, while FIG. 2 represents the wearable device 14, which is a mobile electronic device, in some embodiments, the components of the wearable device 14 are integrated with the vehicle 12.

The controller 30 may be coupled (e.g., wirelessly) to one or more sensors, such as one or more biometric sensors 36, which may be integrated with and/or separate from the wearable device 14. The biometric sensor(s) 36 may detect biometric information of the user 16 that may be used to determine whether the user 16 is distracted. In this disclosure, distracted may mean a state of the user 16 associated with less alertness and/or drowsiness due to, for example, lack of sleep, medication, other drugs (e.g., alcohol), and the like. Certain detectable biometric characteristics may be associated with distracted driving, such as decreased oxygen levels, decreased pulse, pupil dilation, and the like.

For example, the biometric sensor(s) 36 may detect pulse information of the user 16. In some embodiments, the processor(s) 32 may compare the pulse information to normal pulse information of the user 16. The normal pulse information of the user 16 may include an average pulse, a typical pulse of the user 16 associated with a normal state (e.g., a non-strenuous state, non-exercising state, or non-sleep state) of the user 16, and the like. The processor(s) 32 may, for example, determine whether the pulse information is within a threshold range (e.g., 5-100%, 10-50%, or 12-25%) of the normal pulse information of the user 16. If not, the processor(s) 32 may determine that the user 16 is distracted. Similar analyses may be performed for other

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biometric characteristics associated with distracted driving, such as oxygen level analysis, pupil size analysis, and the like.

In some embodiments, the one or more sensors may include one or more eye or head detection sensors 21 disposed in a windshield 22, in a mirror 24, mounted on a dashboard of the vehicle 12, or the like. The eye or head detection sensor(s) 21 may detect a focus of an eye or a head direction or movement of the user 16. The processor(s) 32 may, for example, determine that the user 16 is distracted because an eye detection sensor 21 indicates that the user's eyes are looking down or a head detection sensor 21 indicates that the user's head is pointed down.

The one or more sensors may include one or more vehicle speed sensors 38 that may detect a speed of the vehicle 12. In some embodiments, the vehicle speed sensor(s) 38 may include a speedometer and/or an accelerometer of the wearable device 14. The processor(s) 32 may determine the vehicle speed based on information received from the speedometer and/or the accelerometer. In alternative or additional embodiments, the vehicle speed sensor(s) 38 may include a location device, such as a global positioning system device, of the wearable device 14. For example, the processor(s) 32 may determine the vehicle speed based on comparing location information at different times received from the location device.

In some embodiments, the one or more sensors may include one or more proximity sensors of the vehicle 12. The processor(s) 32 may use the one or more proximity sensors to determine whether there are any other vehicles within a proximity (e.g., 0-50 feet or 2-25 feet) to the vehicle 12.

The controller 30 may also be communicatively coupled to a communication interface 40. The communication interface 40 may enable the controller 30 to communicate with any suitable communication network 42. For example, the communication interface 40 may enable the controller 30 to communicate with wireless networks (e.g., mobile, WiFi, LAN, WAN, or Internet). In this manner, the communication interface 40 may enable the controller 30 to communicate with, for example, an application server 44. The application server 44 may enable the user 16 to communicate with others. For example, the application server 44 may belong to the user's insurance company, and enable the user 16 to communicate with a call center and/or a representative of the insurance company (e.g., via an insurance software application 43). As another example, the application server 44 may belong to a social media network company, and enable the user 16 to communicate with another member of a social media network (e.g., via a social media software application 45). As yet another example, the application server 44 may belong to a transportation network company, and enable the user 16 to communicate with a user of a transportation network (e.g., via a transportation network software application 47). In some embodiments, one or more applications 48, such as the insurance company application 43, the social media network application 45, the transportation network application 47, an alarm application 49 that provides an alarm on the wearable device 14, and the like, may be stored in the memory device(s) 34.

The communication interface 40 may enable the controller 30 to communicate directly with one or more mobile devices 46. For example, the processor(s) 32 may use the communication interface 40 to send a message or call a contact of the user 16. In some embodiments, one or more contacts 50 of the user 16 may be stored in the memory device(s) 34. In alternative or additional embodiments, the

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contact(s) 50 may be stored in the application server 44 and may be accessed by the user 16 via the application(s) 48.

In some instances, the processor(s) 32 may determine the vehicle speed based on one or more sensors of the vehicle 12 communicatively coupled (e.g., wirelessly) to the processor(s) 32 via the communication interface 40. For example, the one or more vehicle sensors may include a vehicle speed sensor, a vehicle acceleration sensor, a vehicle location sensor, a vehicle wheel speed sensor, or any other suitable sensor related to operating the vehicle 12. For example, the vehicle sensor(s) may be communicatively coupled to a vehicle bus (e.g., controller area network (CAN) bus) of the vehicle 12, which may communicate with the communication interface 40. In this manner, the controller 30 may receive information from the vehicle sensor(s) and determine the vehicle speed.

The controller 30 may be communicatively coupled to one or more input/output interfaces 52 that enable the controller 30 to receive and/or transmit signals, such as audio or video signals. For example, the input/output interface 52 may enable the controller 30 to receive audio signals from one or more audio sensors 54 (e.g., microphones) of the wearable device 14. As another example, the input/output interface 52 may enable the controller 30 to transmit audio signals to one or more audio output devices 56 (e.g., speakers) of the wearable device 14.

The controller 30 may also be communicatively coupled to one or more orientation sensors 58 that enable the controller 30 to determine an orientation of the wearable device 14. For example, the one or more orientation sensors 58 may include a gyroscope that may use the Earth's gravity to determine orientation of the wearable device 14. As another example, one or more orientation sensors 58 may include an accelerometer that measures proper acceleration, or an acceleration of the wearable device 14 in its own instantaneous rest frame.

FIG. 3 is a flowchart illustrating a method 60 for detecting and reducing distracted driving by using an alarm, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. The method 60 may be performed by any suitable device that may control components of the distracted driving detection and reduction system 10, such as the controller 30. While the method 60 is described using steps in a specific sequence, it should be understood that the present disclosure contemplates that the described steps may be performed in different sequences than the sequence illustrated, and certain described steps may be skipped or not performed altogether. In some embodiments, the method 60 may be implemented by executing instructions stored in a tangible, non-transitory, computer-readable medium, such as the memory device(s) 34, using a processor, such as the processor(s) 32.

As illustrated, the controller 30 receives (block 62) biometric information of the user 16. Specifically, the controller 30 may receive the biometric information from the biometric sensor(s) 36 of the wearable device 14. For example, the controller 30 may receive pulse and/or oxygen level information from pulse and/or oxygen level detection sensors.

The controller 30 then determines (block 64) whether there is an indication that the user 16 is driving. Specifically, the controller 30 may determine whether there is an indication that the user 16 is distracted based at least in part on the biometric information from block 62. For example, the controller 30 may determine whether the pulse and/or oxygen level information is within a threshold range of the normal pulse and/or oxygen level information of the user 16. If so, the controller 30 may determine that the user 16 is not distracted, and the method 60 repeats. Otherwise, the con-

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troller 30 may determine that the user 16 is distracted. In alternative or additional embodiments, the controller 30 may determine whether the user 16 is distracted based on eye and/or head position or movement (e.g., using eye or head detection sensors 21 of the vehicle 12). In one embodiment, the user 16 may indicate that he or she is distracted (e.g., by providing a voice prompt to the wearable device 14). It should be understood that any suitable technique, including those discussed above, may be used to provide an indication that the user 16 is distracted. Moreover, any combination of techniques may be used to provide an indication that the user 16 is distracted, and any system of accumulating and weighting the results or values resulting from the techniques may be used to provide an indication that the user 16 is distracted.

The controller 30 also receives (block 66) vehicle speed information. Specifically, the controller 30 may receive the vehicle speed information from the vehicle speed sensor(s) 38. For example, the controller 30 may receive the vehicle speed information from a speedometer and/or an accelerometer of the wearable device 14. In some embodiments, the vehicle speed information may be provided by a location device, such as a global positioning system device, of the wearable device 14. In additional or alternative embodiments, the vehicle speed information may be provided by a location application 67 of the wearable device 14 (e.g., stored in the memory device(s) 34) via communication with, for example, an application server 44 that determines location information of the vehicle 12 over the communication interface 40. In some embodiments, the vehicle speed information may be provided by a vehicle sensor of the vehicle 12 over the communication interface 40.

The controller 30 then determines (block 68) whether there is an indication that the user 16 is driving the vehicle 12. Specifically, the controller 30 may determine whether the vehicle speed information from block 66 is within a threshold range (e.g., greater than 0, greater than 1 mile per hour, and the like) that indicates that the user 16 is driving the vehicle 12. In some embodiments, the controller 30 may determine that the user 16 is driving the vehicle 12, as opposed to being a passenger in the vehicle 12. For example, the controller 30 may request or prompt the user 16 (e.g., via an audio output device 56 such as a speaker) to answer whether he or she is driving the vehicle 12. In additional or alternative embodiments, the controller 30 may automatically determine whether the user 16 is driving the vehicle. For example, the controller 30 may communicate with a vehicle sensor of the vehicle 12 (e.g., the occupancy sensor 19 disposed in the driver seat 20 of the vehicle 12 or the pulse detection sensor 17 disposed in the steering wheel 18 of the vehicle 12) to determine a distance between the wearable device 14 and a part of the vehicle 12 associated with driving, such as the driver seat 20 or the steering wheel 18. If the distance is within a threshold distance, the controller 30 may determine that the user 16 is driving the vehicle 12. In additional or alternative circumstances, the controller 30 may determine there is an indication that the user 16 is driving the vehicle 12 based on analyzing movements of the wearable device 14 and determining whether such movements correspond to user movements typically associated with a driver. For example, an orientation sensor 58 (e.g., a gyroscope and/or an accelerometer) of the wearable device 14 may indicate that the user 16 is entering the driver side of the vehicle 12 based on the direction of movement experienced by the orientation sensor 58 (e.g., corresponding to twisting motions of the user 16 when entering the driver side of the vehicle 12). As another example, one or more audio sensors 54 (e.g., microphones)

of the wearable device **14** may indicate that the user **16** is sitting in the driver seat of the vehicle **12** based on determining the direction(s) of radio sounds or road noise. It should be understood that any suitable technique, including those discussed above, may be used to provide an indication that the user **16** is driving the vehicle **12**. Moreover, any combination of techniques may be used to provide an indication that the user **16** is driving the vehicle **12**, and any system of accumulating and weighting the results or values resulting from the techniques may be used to provide an indication that the user **16** is driving the vehicle **12**.

If the controller **30** determines that the user **16** is not driving the vehicle **12**, then the method **60** repeats. Otherwise, the controller **30** determines that the user **16** is driving the vehicle **12**. In some embodiments, features such as near-field communication devices may be used to confirm that the individual wearing the mobile electronic device (e.g., the wearable device **14**) or otherwise being monitored by the mobile electronic device is driving. For example, such features may be used to confirm that the individual being monitored or otherwise being monitored is in the driver's seat of the vehicle **12**. If this is not the case, certain actions may be implemented. For example, the vehicle **12** may not be allowed to start, incentives for using the system **10** may be halted, an alert may be provided, and the like. It should be understood that any suitable technique, including those discussed above, may be used to provide an indication that the user **16** is driving the vehicle **12**. Moreover, any combination of techniques may be used to provide an indication that the user **16** is driving the vehicle **12**, and any system of accumulating and weighting the results or values resulting from the techniques may be used to provide an indication the user **16** is driving the vehicle **12**.

The controller **30** then activates (block **70**) an alarm on the user's mobile device (e.g., the wearable device **14**). For example, the wearable device **14** may include an alarm application **49** (e.g., stored in the memory device(s) **34**). The controller **30** may activate an alarm of the alarm application **49** to alert the user **16**. The method **60** then repeats. In this manner, the method **60** may reduce distracted driving when detecting that the user **16** is distracted.

FIG. **4** is a flowchart illustrating a method **80** for detecting and reducing distracted driving by contacting another user or a call center, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. The method **80** may be performed by any suitable device that may control components of the distracted driving detection and reduction system **10**, such as the controller **30**. While the method **80** is described using steps in a specific sequence, it should be understood that the present disclosure contemplates that the described steps may be performed in different sequences than the sequence illustrated, and certain described steps may be skipped or not performed altogether. In some embodiments, the method **80** may be implemented by executing instructions stored in a tangible, non-transitory, computer-readable medium, such as the memory device(s) **34**, using a processor, such as the processor(s) **32**.

As with block **62** of FIG. **3**, the controller **30** receives (block **82**) biometric information of the user **16**. As with block **64** of FIG. **3**, the controller **30** then determines (block **84**) whether there is an indication that the user **16** is distracted based on the biometric information. If so, the controller **30** may determine that the user **16** is not distracted, and the method **80** repeats. Otherwise, the controller **30** may determine that the user **16** is distracted. As with block **66** of FIG. **3**, the controller **30** also receives (block **86**) vehicle speed information. As with block **68** of FIG. **3**, the

controller **30** then determines (block **88**) whether there is an indication that the user **16** is driving the vehicle **12**. If the controller **30** determines that the user **16** is not driving, then the method **80** repeats. Otherwise, the controller **30** determines that the user **16** is driving.

The controller **30** then instructs (block **90**) the user's mobile device (e.g., the wearable device **14**) to contact another user or a call center. For example, the controller **30** may contact another user via the communication interface **40**. In some embodiments, the controller **30** may determine the other user to contact based on the contact(s) **50** stored in the memory device(s) **34**. The other user may speak with the user **16** (e.g., on a hands-free communication device, such as a microphone and speakers of the vehicle **12**) to focus the user's attention on driving and reduce distraction to the user **16**. In some circumstances, the user **16** may stop operating the vehicle **12** and the other user may meet the user **16** at the user's location. For example, the controller **30** may send the other user a location of the user **16** (e.g., using a location device or the location application **67** of the wearable device **14**). The other user may then drive the user **16** to the user's destination, or an alternative destination.

In alternative or additional embodiments, the controller **30** may determine the identity of the other user based on the application(s) **48** stored in the memory device(s). For example, the controller **30** may use the social media application **45** to determine the identity of the other user as a member of the user's social media network and/or contact the other user using contact information associated with the identity of the other user. Again, the other user may speak with the user **16** to focus the user's attention on driving and/or meet the user **16** at the user's location to drive the user **16** to the user's destination, or an alternative destination.

As another example, the controller **30** may use the transportation network application **47** to determine the other user and/or contact the other user. In particular, the controller **30** may arrange for a driver of the transportation network to meet the user **16** at the user's location. The driver may then drive the user **16** to the user's destination, or an alternative destination.

In some embodiments, the controller **30** may use the insurance company application **43** to contact a call center of the user's insurance company. A representative of the insurance company may then speak with the user **16** to focus the user's attention on driving. In some circumstances, the representative may arrange for transportation to meet the user **16** at the user's location and drive the user **16** to the user's destination, or an alternative destination. In this manner, the method **80** may reduce distracted driving when detecting that the user **16** is distracted.

FIG. **5** is a flowchart illustrating a method **100** for detecting distracted driving and alerting nearby drivers, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. The method **100** may be performed by any suitable device that may control components of the distracted driving detection and reduction system **10**, such as the controller **30**. While the method **100** is described using steps in a specific sequence, it should be understood that the present disclosure contemplates that the described steps may be performed in different sequences than the sequence illustrated, and certain described steps may be skipped or not performed altogether. In some embodiments, the method **100** may be implemented by executing instructions stored in a tangible, non-transitory, computer-readable medium, such as the memory device(s) **34**, using a processor, such as the processor(s) **32**.

As with block 62 of FIG. 3, the controller 30 receives (block 102) biometric information of the user 16. As with block 64 of FIG. 3, the controller 30 then determines (block 104) whether there is an indication that the user 16 is distracted based on the biometric information. If so, the controller 30 may determine that the user 16 is not distracted, and the method 100 repeats. Otherwise, the controller 30 may determine that the user 16 is distracted. As with block 66 of FIG. 3, the controller 30 also receives (block 106) vehicle speed information. As with block 68 of FIG. 3, the controller 30 then determines (block 108) whether there is an indication that the user 16 is driving the vehicle 12. If the controller 30 determines that the user 16 is not driving the vehicle 12, then the method 100 repeats. Otherwise, the controller 30 determines that the user 16 is driving the vehicle 12.

The controller 30 then receives (block 110) nearby vehicle information. The controller 30 may thus determine (block 112) whether any vehicles or drivers are within a threshold distance of the user 16. For example, the controller 30 may use the proximity sensor(s) of the vehicle 12 to determine whether there are any nearby vehicles within a threshold distance (e.g., 0-50 feet or 2-25 feet) to the vehicle 12. As another example, the controller 30 may communicate with mobile devices of drivers of the nearby vehicles and/or communication devices of the nearby vehicles to determine whether there are any nearby vehicles within the threshold distance. If not, the controller 30 determines there are no nearby vehicles within the threshold distance, and the method 100 repeats. Otherwise, the controller 30 determines there are nearby vehicles within the threshold distance.

The controller 30 then sends (block 114) an indication to the drivers within the threshold distance that the user 16 is distracted. Specifically, the controller 30 may send the indication (e.g., a message) to mobile devices of the drivers of the nearby vehicles and/or the communication devices of the nearby vehicles. The drivers may receive the indication via any suitable method or device. For example, the mobile devices of the drivers may communicate the indication via speakers of the mobile devices. Similarly, the nearby vehicles may communicate the indication via speakers of the nearby vehicles. In some embodiments, the controller 30 may activate components and/or devices of the vehicle 12 to signal the drivers of the nearby vehicles (e.g., by activating hazard lights of the vehicle 12).

In some embodiments, the controller 30 may send the indication via the application(s) 48 stored in the memory device(s) 34. For example, if the user 16 and a nearby driver both have the insurance company application 43 installed on their respective mobile devices, the controller 30 may send the indication via the insurance company application 43 from the user's wearable device 14 to the nearby driver's mobile device. In this manner, the method 100 may detect distracted driving and alert nearby drivers of the distracted driver.

In some embodiments, nearby drivers (including the user 16) may communicate with one another to alert each other to vehicle conditions, using the various communication methods disclosed. For example, the user 16 may notice a tail light of a nearby driver's vehicle is not working. The user 16 may then send an indication to the nearby driver (via the nearby driver's mobile device and/or the nearby vehicle's communication device) that the tail light is not working. In the example above, where the user 16 and a nearby driver both have the insurance company application 43 installed on their respective mobile devices, the controller 30 may send the indication via the insurance company

application 43 from the user's wearable device 14 to the nearby driver's mobile device. In this manner, drivers may notify each other of vehicle conditions. This may be achieved by associating location data with users in real-time, by associating license plate data, and so forth. For example, a user may identify an issue and identify the vehicle associated with the issue (e.g., by identifying the vehicle on a map provided by an application 48 of the wearable device 14, taking a photo of the vehicle, taking a photo of the license plate of the vehicle, providing license plate information through their mobile electronic device, and the like) and indicate the issue (e.g., a broken light). In some embodiments, the user may identify the vehicle after selecting the vehicle from a list of nearby vehicles (e.g., provided based on a geographic location of the vehicle 12 and vehicles within a threshold distance from the vehicle 12). The indication may facilitate identifying the location and associate it with a user for communication.

While the embodiments set forth in the present disclosure may be susceptible to various modifications and alternative forms, specific embodiments have been shown by way of example in the drawings and have been described in detail herein. However, it should be understood that the disclosure is not intended to be limited to the particular forms disclosed. The disclosure is to cover all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives falling within the spirit and scope of the disclosure as defined by the following appended claims.

The techniques presented and claimed herein are referenced and applied to material objects and concrete examples of a practical nature that demonstrably improve the present technical field and, as such, are not abstract, intangible or purely theoretical. Further, if any claims appended to the end of this specification contain one or more elements designated as "means for [perform]ing [a function] . . ." or "step for [perform]ing [a function] . . .", it is intended that such elements are to be interpreted under 35 U.S.C. 112(f). However, for any claims containing elements designated in any other manner, it is intended that such elements are not to be interpreted under 35 U.S.C. 112(f).

What is claimed is:

1. A system that detects and reduces distracted driving comprising:

a biometric sensor configured to detect biometric information of a first user in a first vehicle;

a vehicle speed sensor configured to detect vehicle speed information of the first vehicle; and

a first electronic device communicatively coupled to the biometric sensor and the vehicle speed sensor, wherein the first electronic device comprises one or more processors configured to:

determine that there is an indication that the first user is distracted based at least in part on the biometric information;

determine that the first user is driving the first vehicle based at least in part on the vehicle speed information;

detect a second electronic device of a second user in a second vehicle; and

in response to determining that the first user is distracted and that the first user is driving the first vehicle, contact the second electronic device of the second user in the second vehicle.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the biometric information comprises pulse information, oxygen level information, pupil information, or any combination thereof.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the one or more processors are configured to determine that the first user is

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distracted in response to determining that the pulse information is not within a threshold range.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein the biometric information comprises oxygen level information of the first user, and wherein the one or more processors are configured to determine that the first user is distracted in response to determining that the oxygen level information is not within a threshold range.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the vehicle speed sensor comprises a speedometer, an accelerometer, a location device, a global positioning system device, or any combination thereof.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the biometric sensor comprises an eye or head detection sensor of the first vehicle, wherein the biometric information comprises eye position information, eye movement information, head position information, head movement information, or any combination thereof, of the first user, and wherein the one or more processors are configured to determine that the first user is distracted based at least in part on the eye position information, the eye movement information, the head position information, the head movement information, or any combination thereof, received from the eye or head detection sensor of the first vehicle.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are configured to determine that the first user is driving in response to determining that the first vehicle speed information is within a threshold range.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are configured to determine that the first user is driving the first vehicle based at least in part on receiving user input indicative of the first user driving the first vehicle.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are configured to determine that the first user is driving the first vehicle based at least in part on:

- determining a distance between the first electronic device and a sensor of the first vehicle; or
- analyzing movements of the first electronic device based at least in part on an orientation sensor of the first electronic device.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are configured to determine whether a hazardous vehicle condition is present and associated with the first vehicle, and, in response to determining that the hazardous vehicle condition is present and associated with the first vehicle, contact the second electronic device of the second user in the second vehicle.

11. A method that detects and reduces distracted driving comprising:

- receiving, at one or more processors of a first mobile device of a first user in a first vehicle, biometric information of the first user;
- determining, with the one or more processors, that the first user is distracted based at least in part on the biometric information;
- receiving, at the one or more processors, vehicle speed information of the first vehicle;
- determining, with the one or more processors, that the first user is driving the first vehicle based at least in part on the vehicle speed information;
- detecting, with the one or more processors, a second mobile device of a second user in a second vehicle; and
- in response to determining that the first user is distracted and that the first user is driving the first vehicle, sending, via the one or more processors, an alert to the second mobile device of the second user in the second vehicle.

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12. The method of claim 11, wherein the first mobile device comprises a hand-free communication device, and sending the alert to the second mobile device of the second user comprises calling, via the one or more processors, the second mobile device of the second user with the hand-free communication device.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein sending the alert to the second mobile device of the second user comprises sending, via the one or more processors, the second mobile device of the second user a location indicative of a destination of the first mobile device.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein determining that the first user is driving the first vehicle occurs in response to determining that the vehicle speed information is within a threshold range.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the biometric information comprises pulse information of the first user, oxygen level information of the first user, or both.

16. One or more tangible, non-transitory, machine-readable media comprising instructions to alert other drivers, wherein the instructions are configured to cause at least one processor to:

- receive vehicle speed information of a first vehicle;
- determine that a first user is driving the first vehicle based at least in part on the vehicle speed information and biometric or location data for the first user obtained via a first mobile device having a first insurance application installed thereon;
- determine that a second vehicle is within a threshold distance from the first vehicle;
- receive an indication that a second mobile device of a second user in the second vehicle has a second insurance application compatible with the first insurance application installed thereon; and
- in response to determining that the first user is driving, and that the second vehicle is within the threshold distance from the first vehicle, establish communication between the first mobile device and the second mobile device via the first insurance application and the second insurance application.

17. The one or more tangible, non-transitory, machine-readable media of claim 16, wherein the instructions configured to cause the at least one processor to determine that the second vehicle is within the threshold distance from the first vehicle comprise instructions for comparing global positioning data of the first mobile device and the second mobile device.

18. The one or more tangible, non-transitory, machine-readable media of claim 17, wherein determining that the first user is driving the first vehicle based at least in part on the vehicle speed information and the biometric or the location data comprises determining a position of the first user within the first vehicle.

19. The one or more tangible, non-transitory, machine-readable media of claim 16, wherein the instructions configured to cause the at least one processor to determine that the second vehicle is within the threshold distance from the first vehicle comprise instructions for receiving nearby vehicle information from one or more proximity sensors of the first vehicle.

20. The one or more tangible, non-transitory, machine-readable media of claim 16, wherein the instructions are configured to cause the at least one processor to activate a speaker or haptic actuator of the second mobile device.